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Message Text

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63
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
---------- 097264
R 141801Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6834
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 1233

EXDIS

NORFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR FR PO US
SUBJECT: FRENCH BILATERAL ECONOMIC AID FOR PORTUGAL

REF: A) STATE 297463; B) PARIS 33086

1. EMBOFF HAD INFORMAL OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS US INTEREST IN INCREASED EUROPEAN BILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL WITH LEVITTE, ONE OF FOREIGN POLICY STAFFERS AT PRESIDENCY.

2. LEVITTE CONFIRMED IMPRESSION WE HAD GAINED OTHER RECENT CONTACTS THAT ISSUE OF BILATERAL FRENCH AID TO PORTUGAL HAS IN FACT BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION AT HIGH LEVELS IN PARIS FOR SOME TIME, BUT THAT "FOR PRESENT" GISCARD HAD PERSONALLY DECIDED TO "WAIT". RATIONALE WAS THAT PORTUGUESE SITUATION STILL TOO UNSETTLED AND FRANCE'S OWN ECONIMIC PROBLEMS STILL TO PRESSING TO PERMIT COMMITMENTS TO PORTUGAL BEYOND THE COMMUNITY'S MULTILATERAL EFFORT.(ACCORDING TO SENIOR UK SOURCE IN PARIS, REAL STORY WAS THAT BILATERAL AID INITIATIVE BY CERTAIN MEMBERS FRENCH GOVERNMENT WAS SHOT DOWN SOME
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WEEKS AGO BY PONIATOWSKI, REPORTEDLY ON ADVICE SDECE,

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WHICH CONSIDERED PORTUGUESE SITUATION TOO UNSTABLE.)
LEVITTE ALSO INDICATED THAT BIJOUD MISSION TO LISBON
(REFTEL B) HAD BEEN USEFUL GESTURE TO AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT
BUT HAD PRODUCED NO NEW IMPETUS FOR BILATERAL AID, EXCEPT
FOR UNDERSTANDINDS REGARDING SOME 8000 PORTUGUESE MIGRANT
WORKERS IN FRANCE.

3. LEVITTE THEN QUERIED EMBOFF AS TO US AID AND TOOK
DETAILED NOTES INFO BASED REFTEL (A), WHICH QUAI APPAR-
ENTLY HAD NOT TRANSMITTED ELYSEE. AFTER SOME REFLECTION
LEVITTE SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY AGREED WITH US REASONING
THAT TIME TO MAKE MAJOR EFFORT IN PORTUGAL WAS NOW.
MOREOVER, HE THOUGHT CASE COULD PERHAPS BE MADE WITHIN
GOF AT THIS POINT THAT PORTUGUESE INSTABILITY WAS IN-
CREASINGLY THING OF THE PAST IF PORTUGAL'S SERIOUS
ECONOMIC WEAKNESS COULD ALSO BE OVERCOME. EMPHASIZING
THAT HE COULD MAKE NO COMMITMENTS, LEVITTE THEN VOLUN-
TEERED TO PRESENT ISSUE, IN CONTEXT US EFFORTS AND
ANALYSIS, ONCE MORE TO ELYSEE SENIOR STAFF WITH SUGGES-
TION THAT GISCARD AGAIN REVIEW FRENCH POSITION--AT LEAST
TO EXTENT OF AUTHORIZING LIMITED FRENCH EFFORT.

RUSH

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